UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/C.1/L.190
9 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-first session
Vienna, 21 February-4 March 1994

PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Statement by the Chairman.

3. General exchange of views.

4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system.

5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries.

7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

8. Space debris.

9. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

10. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

11. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine.

---

*Items 4 to 7 should be given priority in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 48/39 of 10 December 1993.

12. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme.

13. Matters relating to planetary exploration.

14. Matters relating to astronomy.

15. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1994 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief".

16. Other matters.

17. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

ANNOTATIONS

Items 1, 2 and 3. Adoption of the agenda

Statement by the Chairman

General exchange of views

1. Following the adoption of the agenda by the Subcommittee, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee which have taken place since its thirtieth session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize a schedule of work (the provisional schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present provisional agenda).

2. The general exchange of views will start during the morning meeting.

Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

3. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution (48/39), endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

Report of the Expert on Space Applications

4. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1992-1994 are set out in paragraphs 23 to 33 of its report (A/AC.105/543). The views of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the report of the Subcommittee on this item are reflected in paragraphs 29 to 42 of the report of the Committee. 1/ The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 of resolution 48/39, endorsed the Programme for 1994, proposed to the Committee by the Expert (see A/AC.105/533, sections I and III).

5. The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the Programme on Space Applications during 1993 and 1994, as well as the activities proposed for 1995 (A/AC.105/555). The report will also cover arrangements made by the Secretariat with other organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to use available resources and secure additional

financial support for the Programme, as requested in paragraph 19 (c) of the report of the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixth session (A/AC.105/513, annex II). The report of the Expert will also provide the Subcommittee with information on the increased budget allocation for the Programme on Space Applications that resulted from the recommendations and actions referred to in paragraphs 25 and 26 of the report of the Committee (A/48/20). In his report to the Subcommittee, the Expert will also provide an update on the Centres for Space Science and Technology Education.

6. In addition, the Subcommittee will have before it reports on the following training courses, conferences and workshops that were held in 1993: United Nations/European Space Agency (ESA) Training Course for African Francophone countries on Applications of the European Remote Sensing Satellite (ERS-1) for Natural Resources, Renewable Energy and Environment, organized in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Development and held at the European Space Research Institute (ESRIN) at Frascati, Italy, from 19 to 30 April (A/AC.105/556); Third United Nations Training Course on Remote-Sensing Education for Educators, organized in cooperation with the Government of Sweden and held at Stockholm and Kiruna from 3 May to 4 June (A/AC.105/552); United Nations Workshop on Space Communications for Development, organized in cooperation with the Government of Greece and held at Athens from 10 to 12 May (A/AC.105/553); United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development, organized in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia and held at Bandung, Indonesia, from 17 to 21 May (A/AC.105/557); United Nations/ESA Workshop on Applications of Space Techniques to combat Natural Disasters, organized in cooperation with the Government of Mexico and held at Mexico City from 27 to 30 September (A/AC.105/558); United Nations/International Astronautical Federation (IAF)/ESA Workshop on Organizing Space Activities in Developing Countries: Resources and Mechanisms, organized in cooperation with the Government of Austria, IAF and ESA and held at Graz, Austria, from 15 to 17 October (A/AC.105/559); Third United Nations/ESA Workshop on Basic Space Science, organized in cooperation with the Government of Nigeria and held at Lagos, Nigeria, from 18 to 22 October (A/AC.105/560); Fifth United Nations Training Course on Remote-Sensing Applications to Geological Sciences, organized in cooperation with the Governments of Germany and Nepal, and held at Kathmandu from 10 October to 6 November (A/AC.105/561); and the United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa, hosted by the Government of Senegal and held at Dakar from 25 to 29 October (A/AC.105/562).

Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

7. The fifteenth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was held at Geneva from 11 to 13 October 1993. The report of that meeting was issued in document A/AC.105/554. The report on coordination is contained in the document entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programmes of work for 1994 and 1995 and future years" (A/AC.105/551).

Item 5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

8. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 48/39 endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

9. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the item were provided in paragraphs 18 to 45 of its report (A/AC.105/543). The views of the Committee on the report of the Subcommittee on the item are contained in paragraphs 23 to 48 of the report of the Committee. 1/

10. Attention is also drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) (A/48/365) and to the report of the Expert on Space Applications concerning the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/555).

11. The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of resolution 48/39 endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be reconvened by the Subcommittee at its current session.

12. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 48/39, also endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in paragraphs 6 to 21 of the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/543, annex II). In response to the requests in paragraphs 10 and 15 of the report of the Working Group, the Subcommittee will have before it document A/AC.105/567 which will contain information on national and international space activities submitted by Member States, including information on space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, information on the resources and technological capabilities of States in space activities and information on the capabilities of States in the areas of education, training, research and fellowship opportunities for the promotion of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. A number of reports from international organizations with space-related activities will be before the Subcommittee, including information concerning space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, in response to the request in paragraph 11.

13. The Subcommittee will have before it the following technical studies which were requested by the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/543, annex II, para. 17): "Space applications for forest resources management" (annex to A/AC.105/563); and "Use of low-earth-orbiting satellites for communications" (annex to A/AC.105/564).

14. In considering agenda item 5, the Subcommittee should note that, in paragraph 11 of resolution 48/39, the General Assembly stated that it is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:

(a) All countries should have the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space;

(b) Data banks at the national and regional levels should be strengthened and expanded and an international space information service should be established to function as a centre of coordination;

(c) The United Nations should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, linked, whenever possible, to institutions implementing space programmes; necessary funding for the development of such centres should be made available through financial institutions;

(d) The United Nations should organize a fellowship programme through which selected graduates or postgraduates from developing countries should get in-depth, long-term exposure to space technology or applications; it is also desirable to encourage the availability of opportunities for such exposure on other bilateral and multilateral bases outside the United Nations system.

Item 6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

15. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

Item 7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

16. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

17. The General Assembly, in resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992, adopted the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, as recommended by the Committee in its report. 1/

18. The General Assembly also decided, in paragraph 14 of resolution 48/39, and in accordance with principle 11 of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space at its current session (see the annex to the present provisional agenda for the provisional schedule of work for the Working Group).

Item 8. Space debris

19. The General Assembly, in paragraph 8 of resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that a new item, entitled "Space debris", should be added to the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee beginning at its current session.

20. The General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of resolution 48/39, also endorsed the agreement of the Committee that, under this item, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would consider scientific research relating to space debris, including relevant studies, mathematical modelling and other analytical work on the characterization of the space debris environment.

Item 9. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

21. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 10. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

22. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 11. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

23. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 12. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

24. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of the resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 13. Matters relating to planetary exploration

25. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of the resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 14. Matters relating to astronomy

26. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of the resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 15. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1994 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief"

27. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of the resolution 48/39, endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee, which had been endorsed by the Committee, that the theme fixed for the special attention of the Subcommittee at its current session should be "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief".

28. In accordance with the same resolution, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and IAF, in liaison with Member States, have been invited to arrange a symposium on this theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the session, at the end of the meetings of the Subcommittee, to complement its discussions (see note a/ of the annex to the present provisional agenda).

Item 16. Other matters

International Space Year

29. The General Assembly, in paragraph 21 of resolution 47/67, recommended that the United Nations actively encourage the continuation of activities initiated for International Space Year (ISY), 1992 and promote broader involvement in those activities by more nations. The report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/555) will provide information to the Subcommittee on the ongoing activities that resulted from the participation of the United Nations in ISY.

Space and Earth environment

30. The General Assembly, in paragraph 26 of resolution 48/39, recommended that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment.

31. The General Assembly, in paragraph 29 of the same resolution, requested the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to review the analytical report prepared by the Secretariat on the role that the Committee could play in view of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/AC.105/547). The Subcommittee will also have before it document A/AC.105/547/Add.1 prepared by the Secretariat in response to the request of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 30 of resolution 48/39. This document contains updated information on the implementation of Agenda 21 by the United Nations system, with information on activities of the Programme on Space Applications related to environment and development and with suggestions as to how the activities of the Programme in this area might be expanded. The Subcommittee will also have before it document A/AC.105/551, which contains information on the activities that are being conducted by the United Nations system in support of the implementation of Agenda 21.

32. The General Assembly, in paragraph 27 of the same resolution, also considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including nuclear power sources, with space debris and other aspects of space debris, and called for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, and that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Subcommittee. In this connection, the Subcommittee will have before it documents A/AC.105/542 and Add.1 and 2, as well as A/AC.105/565, containing the contributions received by the Secretariat from Member States.

Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

33. The General Assembly, in paragraph 22 of resolution 48/39, noted that pursuant to its request, contained in paragraph 20 of resolution 47/67, the Committee had discussed the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the future and requested the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to continue these discussions at its current session with a view to promoting an early conclusion on the matter by the Committee.

34. The General Assembly agreed that the most important step is to define a set of sharply focused objectives for such a conference, and that details such as organization, venue, timing and funding should also be considered. The General Assembly also noted that the goals set for such a conference might also be achieved through other means, including intensification of work within the Committee.

Other reports

35. The Subcommittee will also have before it the document entitled Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications 1993 - reports submitted by COSPAR and IAF and published as an integrated document (A/AC.105/566).

36. Additional reports may be submitted to the Subcommittee as available.

Note

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/48/20).

Annex

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF WORK*

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Monday, 21 February	Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda Item 2 - Statement by the Chairman Item 3 - General exchange of views	Item 3 - General exchange of views Item 15 - Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief a/
Tuesday, 22 February	Item 3 - General exchange of views Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications	Item 5 - UNISPACE b/ Item 15 - Space applications for disaster prevention warning, mitigation and relief a/
Wednesday, 23 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 b/	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 b/
Thursday, 24 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 b/	Item 9 - Space transportation systems Item 10 - Geostationary orbit
Friday, 25 February	Item 11 - Life sciences Item 13 - Planetary Exploration	Item 11 - Life sciences Item 13 - Planetary Exploration
Monday, 28 February	Item 8 - Space debris Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/	Item 8 - Space debris Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/
Tuesday, 1 March	Item 8 - Space debris Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/	Item 6 - Remote sensing Item 12 - Earth environment
Wednesday, 2 March	Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 b/ Item 6 - Remote sensing Item 12 - Earth environment	Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/ Item 14 - Astronomy
Thursday, 3 March	Item 14 - Astronomy Item 16 - Other matters	Item 16 - Other matters Item 17 - Report to the Committee
Friday, 4 March	Item 17 - Report to the Committee	Item 17 - Report to the Committee

---

*The provisional schedule of work has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Subcommittee.

a/ In accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 48/39, a scientific symposium on the theme "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief", organized by COSPAR and IAF, will be held on 21 and 22 February, during the afternoon meeting of the Subcommittee. A detailed programme for the symposium will be issued in due course.

b/ The Working Group of the Whole, to be re-established under General Assembly resolution 48/39, paragraph 12 (see paragraph 11 of the present provisional agenda), will meet during the period allocated for agenda items 4 and 5. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group as required. The Subcommittee will take up agenda item 5 again on Wednesday, 2 March, to adopt the report of the Working Group.

c/ The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (see paragraph 17 of the present provisional agenda) will meet during the period allocated for agenda item 7. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group as required. The Subcommittee will take up agenda item 7 again on Wednesday, 2 March, to adopt the report of the Working Group.